

have to decide what you believe and take sides and stand up. But there's nothing to be cynical about. These differences are real and deep and profound and they matter. And they're honestly held by all the parties.

And I just want to say to you that this is a very great country, but if you want your country—when those of you who are younger are my age, and I'm nearly eligible to join AARP—[laughter]—I hate it, but it's true—[laughter]—if you want this country when you're 50, when you're 60, when you're 65 to be the beacon of hope for the world, to be Israel's best friend, to stand up for freedom and against terrorism, if that's what you want, if you want every child who grows up in this country to believe that he or she can live out their dreams if they'll work for it, then cynicism and inaction and passivity have no place in your future or the future of your friends and neighbors back home where you live. You have to lead. And that's what I want you to do.

Thank you, and God bless you all.

NOTE: The President spoke at 8:12 p.m. in the ballroom of the Washington Hilton and Towers Hotel. In his remarks, he referred to David Hermelin, national vice chair, United Jewish Appeal; Gad Yaacobi, Israeli Ambassador to the United Nations; Efrat Rabinovich, wife of Itamar Rabinovich, Israeli Ambassador to the United States; and Prime Minister Shimon Peres of Israel. A portion of these remarks could not be verified because the tape was incomplete.

**Remarks on the Opening of the
Los Angeles Branch of the
Museum of Television and Radio**
March 17, 1996

Let me say that I'm very sorry I couldn't be with you in person tonight. But I am delighted to be here by satellite to open the Los Angeles branch of the Museum of Television and Radio. Hillary and I send our best wishes to all of you, and we know we have an awful lot of friends among you tonight.

I'm speaking to you from the White House historic library which actually has something in common with the museum. Even though many of the books that fill this room were written long before we ever heard a voice over the radio or saw a face on the screen,

all three mediums serve much the same purpose; they enable us to communicate, to pass along ideas, stories, histories, reports from one person to another, to get a feel for the times. And that's why your museum is so important, for radio and television are truly witnesses to our century.

Among the 75,000 programs available are President Franklin Roosevelt's "fireside chats," which helped to pull our Nation through the Depression and the Second World War. There's footage of the triumph of man's first steps on the moon, a record of our civil rights struggles. And having just returned from the Middle East, I am especially sensitive to the fact that you have footage of President Sadat and Prime Minister Begin and later of the historic handshake between Chairman Arafat and Prime Minister Rabin. You also have footage of the tragedy of President Kennedy's assassination. But I'm also told there are even a few lighter moments reserved for "I Love Lucy" and "Happy Days" and "Seinfeld."

This museum is a tribute not only to radio and television but especially to the men and women who pioneered them and who made the most of their infinite potential. Some of our country's greatest creative talents have dedicated their lives to writing, directing, and producing radio and TV shows. And some of our greatest talents are still engaged in that important work. This museum honors them too.

The Museum of Television and Radio is doing nothing less than preserving our historical and cultural legacy for the future. Through its screening and listening devices, the seminars, the classes, the museum plays an important role as it enhances people's understanding of the craft and the creativity of these two media and how they've had an impact on our lives. Using the same satellite technology that allows me to join you this evening, the museum is able to take its education programs to a national audience, particularly through its University Satellite Seminar Series, which reaches college students all across our Nation.

I know many of you in attendance have been instrumental in giving us the gift of radio and television. Let me thank you for that gift which touches millions of Americans

every day. And I want to thank you, too, for the gift of the Museum of Television and Radio, first in New York and now in Los Angeles. It's a great gift to the American people. You have created a significant cultural institution.

I congratulate you, I thank you, and I wish you well this evening. Thank you very much.

NOTE: The President spoke by satellite at 10:40 p.m. from the Library at the White House. In his remarks, he referred to former Prime Ministers Menachem Begin and Yitzhak Rabin of Israel and Chairman Yasser Arafat of the Palestinian Authority.

Remarks at the Dedication of the Nashville Wharf in New Orleans, Louisiana

March 18, 1996

Thank you. I'll tell you what, it's been a cold winter in Washington; it's good to be down here in more ways than one. I want to thank Irwin Joseph for his fine introduction and for his years of distinguished leadership. I thank Ron Brinson for welcoming me back to the Port of New Orleans. And I thank all of you who work here who make this a success.

I'm delighted to be here with so many of your officials and former officials. I want to thank my good friend Senator John Breaux, who always brings his sense of humor to every endeavor, something we need more of in Washington, DC, I might add.

I want to thank Senator Bennett Johnston and to tell you that I will miss him a great deal. He's always helpful to me if I help Louisiana first. *[Laughter]* I was sitting here thinking as I was coming today, well, Bennett's going to retire and he'll lose interest in all this stuff. And Mayor Morial was up here speaking and talking about how the crime rate had come down in New Orleans with the help of the community policing efforts which were at the core of the crime bill we passed in 1994, and I'm very proud of that. So I said—*[applause]*—thank you. So I said to Senator Johnston, I said, "I think it's just great that things are going better in New Orleans. The crime rate is coming down, the juvenile crime rate is coming

down, the economy is up." He said, "Yes, it is," and he said "I've got just one more little project here I want to talk to you about." *[Laughter]* So you may get him for free after next year for all I know. *[Laughter]*

I want to thank my longtime friend Congressman Bill Jefferson and his colleague Congressman Cleo Fields who is out here in the audience. I want to also echo the positive things that were said about your fine young mayor. I love working with him. And let me tell you something, New Orleans is one of the few cities in America today where not only the crime rate is going down but the crime rate among juveniles is going down, not only because you're being tougher on crime but you're giving these kids something to say yes to so they can stay out of trouble in the first place. And that's a real tribute to the mayor, and I respect him for that.

I want to thank Lieutenant Governor Blanco and Attorney General Ieyoub for being here. They're over there to my left. And I thank the religious leaders for coming, and I want to thank all the former officials who are here. I see two New Orleans natives, your former State treasurer, Mary Landreau, and my dear friend Congresswoman Lindy Boggs. Thank you, my dear, for being here. Thank you.

I'd like to thank the people who provided the music today, the James River Movement and the St. Augustine High School band. Let's give them a big hand over there. *[Applause]*

You know, I feel sort of like a preacher who gets up to give a sermon and I'm preaching to the saved and besides that, it's already been given by everybody who's spoken before. I wanted to come here to help you dedicate this new Nashville wharf because it is the symbol of the decision that you have made to reach out to the rest of the world, to compete and win.

When I became your President I had a very straightforward vision of what I thought our country had to do to deal with the challenges of the new information age and the new global economy. I wanted to see this country go into the next century, which is now only 4 years away, with the American dream alive and well for every American who